

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 5-8, 12, 14, 16-17, and 19-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pratt et al., U.S. Patent No. 710,073. As hereinafter described, applicant has amended the pending claims in order to more particularly define the invention for which protection is sought. Applicant now believes that the pending claims define over the cited reference and reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Claim 1 defines a furniture glide for mounting a terminal end of a furniture leg having an outer surface. The furniture glide includes a base having a generally arcuate lower surface for engaging a supporting surface. A sleeve extends from the base along an axis and has an inner surface defining a cavity for receiving the furniture leg. A plurality of resilient projections extend radially inward from the upper edge of the sleeve so as to define an upper limit of the cavity defined by the sleeve. The projections are intended to engage the outer surface of the furniture leg and retain the furniture leg in the cavity. The plurality of resilient projections space the furniture leg from the inner surface of the sleeve so as to allow the furniture leg to be supported within the cavity at an acute angle to the axis. As hereinafter described, nothing in the cited references shows or suggests the furniture guide having a plurality of resilient projections extend radially inward from the upper edge of a sleeve so as to define an upper limit of the cavity defined by the sleeve. Such a structure is entirely absent from the cited reference. Further, the structure of the furniture glide of claim provides for a significant advantage over the art, namely, the projections allows for a furniture leg to be supported within the glide at an acute angle to the longitudinal axis of the sleeve of such glide.

The Pratt et al., '073 patent is directed to an elastic tip for crutches, canes, chair legs and the like. The elastic tip includes a plurality of ridges along the inner surface thereof to maintain

and to center the tip on an object. However, unlike the structure of the furniture glide of claim 1, the ridges in the '073 patent project into the central cavity at locations *spaced* from the upper edge of the sleeve. As a result, the ridges are designed to center a leg inserted into the cavity of sleeve and maintain the tip on the leg. Referring to page 2, lines 2-5 of the '073 patent, "[t]he said conical form also prevents any tendency of the convolutions to separate from each other under the pressure to which they are subjected..." Hence, the purpose of the ridges or convolutions in the elastic tip design of the '073 patent is to retain the position of the tip on the leg of a piece of furniture. On the other hand, the structure of glide of claim 1 allows for the glide to be simply and easily repositioned on the end of a furniture glide as portions of the lower surface of the glide wear away during use.

It can be appreciated that the furniture glide defined in independent claim 1 provides a significant advantage over the structure disclosed in the cited reference. More specifically, since the furniture glide of the present invention can support a furniture leg at an acute angle to the longitudinal axis of the sleeve, the furniture glide is significantly more durable than the structure disclosed in the cited reference. For example, as a portion of the base of the furniture glide begins to wear, the furniture glide may be rotated on the furniture leg such that a different portion of the base will engage the supporting surface on which the piece of furniture rests. As such, it can be appreciated that the furniture glide of the present invention has a longer useful life than the structure disclosed in the prior art.

In addition, it must be noted that claim 1 specifically requires that the plurality of resilient projections extend radially inward from the upper edge of the sleeve so as to define an *upper limit* of the cavity defined by the sleeve. There is no such structure provided in the '073 patent. Further, there is no incentive to modify the structure disclosed in the Pratt reference to allow for the resilient projections defined in independent claim 1. As heretofore described, the ridges provided in the tip disclosed in the Pratt et al., '073 patent do not allow for a leg on which tip is mounted to be supported within the cavity of the tip at an acute angle to the axis of the sleeve.

As such, modifying the elastic tip disclosed in the '073 patent to provide for applicant's claimed structure would be inconsistent with the teaching of the '073 patent wherein the ribs are intended to maintain the position of the tip of a crutch or the like.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that independent claim 1 clearly defines over the cited references and is in proper form for allowance. Claims 2 and 5-8 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and further define a furniture leg not shown or suggested in the prior art. It is believed that the claims 2 and 5-8 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

Referring to claim 12, a furniture glide is provided for mounting a terminal end of a furniture leg having an outer surface. The furniture glide includes a base and a sleeve extending along an axis from a base. The sleeve has an inner surface that defines a cavity for receiving the furniture leg. The sleeve includes a leg engagement element having a plurality of flexible projections extending into the cavity. The projections extend from an upper edge of the sleeve and lie in a common plane with the upper edge. The projections are intended engage the furniture leg received in the cavity and space the furniture leg from the inner surface of the sleeve so as to allow the furniture leg to be supported within the cavity of the sleeve at an acute angle to the axis.

As heretofore described with respect to independent claim 1, the Pratt et al., '073 patent does not show or suggest a furniture glide wherein a plurality of flexible projections extend from an upper edge of the sleeve and lie in a common plane with the upper edge. Further, the '073 patent does not suggest or teach the use of the projections to space the furniture received in the cavity from the inner surface of the sleeve such that the furniture leg may be supported in the cavity of the sleeve at an acute angle to the axis of the sleeve. Consequently, it is believed that independent claim 12 defines over the cited reference and is in proper form for allowance.

Claims 14 and 16-17 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 12 and further define a furniture glide not shown or suggested in the art. It is believed that claims 14 and 16-17 are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

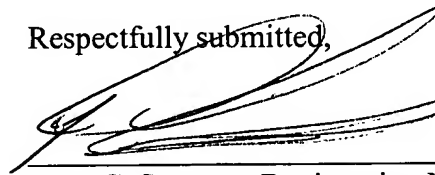
Referring to claim 19, a furniture glide is provided for mounting on a terminal end of a furniture leg having an outer surface. The furniture glide includes a slider and a leg connection member interconnected thereto. The leg connection member includes a generally tubular sleeve extending along an axis and terminating at an upper edge. The sleeve includes an inner surface that defines a cavity for receiving the furniture leg therein. The leg connection member also includes a plurality of flexible projections projecting from the upper edge of the sleeve so as to overlap and at least partially close an upper end of the cavity. The projections are engageable with the furniture leg received in the cavity to space the furniture leg from the inner surface of the sleeve and to allow for the furniture leg to be supported within the cavity at an acute angle to the axis of the sleeve.

As described with respect to claims 1 and 12, nothing in the cited references shows or suggests a furniture glide wherein a plurality of flexible projections extend from an upper edge of the sleeve structure. For the reasons noted with respect to independent claims 1 and 12, it is believed that independent claim 19 defines over the cited reference and is in proper form for allowance. Claims 21-23 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 19 and further define a furniture glide not shown or suggested in the prior art. It is believed that claims 21-23 are allowable as dependent from an allowable base claim and in view of the subject matter of each claim.

RICHARD D. BUSHEY
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Applicant believes that the present application with claims 1-2, 5, 7-8, 12, 14, 16-17, 19 and 21-23 is in proper form for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this or any other communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter C. Stomma, Registration No.36,020

Dated: 7/18/05
BOYLE, FREDRICKSON, NEWHOLM, STEIN & GRATZ, S.C.
250 Plaza, Suite 1030
250 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Telephone: (414) 225-9755
Facsimile: (414) 225-9753
Docket No.: 286.043